

Message Text

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70

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NEA-10 AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3604

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: /N/A

TAGS: SREF. LE, CVIS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REFUGEES

REF: BEIRUT 5956

1. OFFICIAL IN THE MIGRATION AND VISA SECTION OF THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE REPORTED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM DOES NOT HAVE QTE REFUGEE PROGRAM UNQTE FOR LEBANESE. HOWEVER, BRITISH CONSULATES HAVE LENIENT POLICY TOWARD ISSUING NONIMMIGRANT VISAS TO LEBANESE AS LONG AS THEY HAVE RETURN AIR TICKET TO LEBANON OR THIRD COUNTRY AND EVIDENCE OF STRONG FINANCIAL SUPPORT. EXTENSIONS OF STAY ARE

USUALLY AUTHORIZED. FCO IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE STATISTICS ON HOW MANY LEBANESE ENTERED THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS BUT CONSIDERS THE 10,000 FIGURE A REASONABLE ESTIMATE.

2. LEBANESE APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE ARE BEING ACCEPTED UNDER NORMAL PROCEDURE, I.E., LIMITED TO CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE ALREADY RESIDENT

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IN THE U.K. AND AFFLUENT AND INFLUENTIAL PERSONS.

3. EMBASSY LONDON CONTINUES TO NOTE STEADY INCREASE
IN THE NUMBER OF LEBANESE APPLICANTS FOR VISITOR AND
STUDENT VISAS CREATING ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON VISA
STAFF AND FACILITIES DURING PEAK SEASON. OUR
REFUSAL RATE ON THESE CASES IS VERY HIGH. IT
APPEARS FOR THE MORE AFFLUENT LEBANESE LONDON IS
BEING USED AS A STAGING AREA UNTIL THEY ARE ABLE
TO OBTAIN VISAS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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